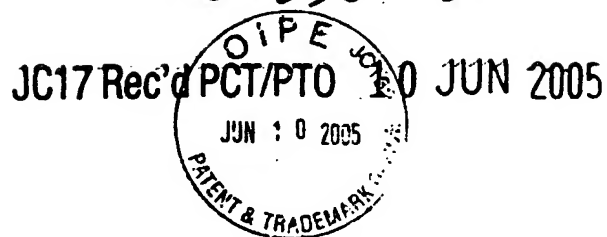


23179

10/538703



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Renato LICATA  
Patent App. Not known (US Nat'l phase of  
PCT/IT2004/000638)  
Filed Concurrently herewith  
For PASSIVE DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM FOR SPACE TETHERS  
Art Unit Not known  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1 insert